

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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SUBJECT: EC/GREECE ACCESSION NEGOTIATIONS

REFS: (A) BRUSSELS 13104; (B) BRUSSELS 12855; (C) BRUSSELS
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1. THE LAST SESSION PRIOR TO THE SUMMER BREAK
OF THE EC/GREECE ACCESSION NEGOTIATIONS WILL BE HELD
AT THE DEPUTY (I.E., AMBASSADORIAL) LEVEL JULY 27.
ACCORDING TO A COMMISSION OFFICIAL, THE MAIN ITEMS ON
THE SESSION'S AGENDA WILL BE A) A "SIGNIFICANT"
EC/STATEMENT FORMALLY INITIATING NEGOTIATIONS ON
AGRICULTURE, B) AN EC STATEMENT ON THE STATUS OF THE
COMPILATION OF SECONDARY LEGISLATION, C) DISCUSSION OF
BRINGING THE DRACHMA INTO PHASE WITH THE EUROPEAN UNIT
OF ACCOUNT AND D) THE WRAPPING UP OF THE CUSTOMS
UNION SECTOR WITH SPECIFIC SUGGESTIONS BEING MADE ON
PRODUCT QUOTAS.

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2. COMMISSION SOURCE SAID THE EC'S STATEMENT ON AGRI-
CULTURE WILL BROADLY OUTLINE THE COMMUNITY'S PROPOSAL
FOR A GRADUAL ASSIMILATION OF THE DIFFERENT AGRI-
CULTURAL SECTORS, BEGINNING AT TIME
OF ACCESSION AND RUNNING THROUGH A STILL
UNSPECIFIED TRANSITION PERIOD. HE FURTHER NOTED THAT

THE TWO SIDES' SECTOR-BY-SECTOR EXAMINATION OF PROBLEMS IN AGRICULTURE WILL BEGIN IN SEPTEMBER. FOLLOWING THE COMPLETION OF THIS EXAMINATION THE QUESTION OF TRANSITION PERIODS OR DEROGATIONS FOR SPECIFIC PRODUCTS WILL THEN BE ADDRESSED, PROBABLY IN OCTOBER. SOURCE SAID THAT GREECE, WHICH IS AWARE OF THE EC'S AGRICULTURAL PROPOSALS, HAS ALREADY EXPRESSED PRELIMINARY DISAPPOINTMENT SINCE THE GREEKS WOULD LIKE TO DELAY THE COMMENCEMENT OF ADAPTATION OF SEVERAL SECTORS IN AGRICULTURE UNTIL SOME TIME AFTER ACCESSION. (REF A PARA 4).(COMMENT: IT IS WORTH NOTING THAT IN OUTLINING THE EC AGRICULTURAL COUNCIL'S WORK PROGRAM FOR THE REMAINDER OF 1978 AT ITS JULY 24-25 MEETING, GERMAN MINISTER ERTL REPORTEDLY EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THE EC/GREEK NEGOTIATIONS ON AGRICULTURE WILL BE COMPLETED BY THE END OF THE YEAR. END COMMENT.)

3. CONCERNING OTHER ITEMS STILL OUTSTANDING IN THE NEGOTIATIONS, COMMISSION OFFICIAL EXPECTED THE DURATION OF THE TRANSITION PERIOD AND THE SOCIAL SECTOR (I.E., LABOR) TO BE DISCUSSED IN THE FALL. HE NOTED THAT THE COMMISSION IS SUPPOSED TO DECIDE JULY 26 ON THE LENGTH OF THE TRANSITION PERIOD TO BE RECOMMENDED TO THE COUNCIL, WHICH MISSION UNDERSTANDS MAY BE IN TWO STAGES, WITH A MINIMUM OF FIVE YEARS AND A MAXIMUM OF TEN. AS REGARDS SOCIAL SECTOR, LOCAL PRESS REPORTS THAT THE COMMISSION HAS RECOMMENDED TO THE COUNCIL THAT DURING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE TRANSITION PERIOD PRESENT MEMBER STATES BE PERMITTED TO INVOKE A SAFEGUARD CLAUSE TO PROHIBIT FREE MOVEMENT OF GREEK WORKERS INTO THEIR COUNTRIES SHOULD THEY THINK ECONOMIC CIRCUMSTANCES REQUIRE IT.

4. PRESS HAS ALSO REPORTED THAT THE COMMISSION HAS COMPLETED ITS RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE EC'S POSITION ON THE INSTITUTIONAL ASPECTS OF GREECE'S ACCESSION, WHICH ARE ALONG THE LINES OF THE FRESCO (REF C) PRESENTED TO THE COUNCIL IN APRIL. IN SUM, IT APPEARS TO BE COMMISSION'S VIEW THAT GREECE SHOULD BE FULLY REPRESENTED IN COMMUNITY INSTITUTIONS FROM THE DATE OF ACCESSION. HINTON

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